



**For Immediate Release**

**January 15, 2007**

**Senator Gregg Calls on Leadership to Schedule Vote  
on Amendment to Reduce Wasteful Spending**

Senator Judd Gregg, ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, today called on Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to allow a vote on his amendment, "*A Second Look at Wasteful Spending*," to the ethics reform bill (S.1). Senator Gregg offered the amendment on Wednesday, January 10th and Senate floor debate on it has occurred, but Majority Leader Reid has yet to schedule a vote on the amendment.

"The new majority party has been very vocal about its commitment to fiscal responsibility and spending restraint," said Senator Gregg. "Yet it seems to be dragging its feet when it comes time to put those words into action. *A Second Look at Wasteful Spending* is an excellent tool against unnecessary spending, and it makes no sense that the U.S. Senate is being denied the opportunity to vote for or against it. I urge the Majority Leader to allow the Senate to be heard on this important measure before debate on S.1 is wrapped up. "

In fact, Majority Leader Harry Reid on January 9<sup>th</sup> said on the Senate floor that "We need to restore fiscal discipline..." *A Second Look at Wasteful Spending* would help to restore fiscal discipline that the Majority Leader seeks, by giving the President the opportunity to force Congress to take a second look at wasteful spending - including both discretionary spending and new mandatory spending – as well as targeted tax cuts. Under the amendment:

- The President can send up to 4 rescission packages per year.
- Congress would be required to fast track the President's recommendation within 8 days.
- Unlike the previous 1996 line-item veto proposal, *A Second Look at Wasteful Spending* requires Congressional affirmation of the President's rescission package.
- Savings from rescissions passed by Congress must be used for deficit reduction.
- The authority sunsets after 4 years – giving Congress the ability to evaluate merits of rescission authority after President Bush and his successor have had the opportunity to use.

The amendment has nearly 30 Senate co-sponsors and is supported by the White House and a large number of business and fiscal watchdog organizations (U.S. Chamber of Commerce, The Business Roundtable, National Federation of Independent Business, The Bond Market Association, Citizens Against Government Waste, Americans for Tax Reform, National Taxpayers Union, Concord Coalition, The American Conservative Union, Center for Individual Freedom, Traditional Values Coalition, 60 Plus Associations, FreedomWorks, Americans for Prosperity and The Club for Growth.)